(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that journalist and non-journalist employees of the visual media are not covered under Working Journalist and other News Papers Employees Act; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to amend the Act to bring the journalist and non-journalist employees of visual media under the purview of this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE DM THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Misc. Provisions Act, 1955 does not cover the employees of visual media.

(b) There is no proposal to amend the Act.

Implementation of ESIC Scheme in Maharashtra

2357. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems in effective implementation of E.S.I.C. scheme in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, Governments reaction on various problems; and

(c) any steps taken or proposed by the Government in resolving the problem by assisting Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The problems in implementation of the ESI Scheme in Maharashtra relate, inter-alia, to non-commissioning of newly constructed hospitals, shortage of doctors, drugs, dressings, equipments in the ESI hospitals/ dispensaries, lack of super speciality treatment etc.

(b) and (c) The ESIC has constructed three new hospitals i.e. one each at Chinchwad, Bibwewardi and Kolhapur and requested the Government of Maharashtra for their commissioning as it is the responsibility of the State Government to administer ESI medical care in the State. The ESIC has prescribed norms/ guidelines with regard to staffing and equipping of the ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries. The Corporation is also meeting 7/8th of the expenditure on running of hospitals/dispensaries subject to the ceiling prescribed under the scheme. In order to bring improvement in the working of the ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESIC has recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the state Governments including the

Government of Maharashtra for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes, inter-alia, provision of modern equipments in hospitals, establishment of Regional trauma centres, establishment of super-speciality services, blood banks, cancer prevention centres, development of indigenous system of medicine, provision of necessary basic equipments in dispensaries etc. Under the action Plan an amount of Rs. 128.30 Lakh has already been sanctioned to the Government of Mahrashtra. For improving resource position of the State Governments in administration of ESI medical care the ceiling on expenditure on medical care has been enhanced from Rs. 500/- per insured person per annum to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.1999. Tie-up arrangements with reputed medical institutions have been made and a revolving fund has been constituted to grant immediate advances to the beneficiaries to enable them to avail super-specialised treatment.

Settlement of widow and children pension

2358. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI GOPILSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of cases regarding settlement of widow and children pension pending in the office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, West Bengal;

(b) how many cases are pending in respect of "Electrical Lamp Manufacturing India" (ELMI);

(c) what are the reasons for delay in settlement of above cases; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to settle the above pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) In the office of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, West Bengal, as on 31.1.2000, there were 71 cases for widow pension and 72 cases for children pension pending for want of essential documents like photographs, birth certificates of children, death certificate of the member etc. There is no case for pension pending in respect of Electrical Lamp Manufacturing India.

(b) There are already instructions to the Regional Provident Fund